



# THE LAWRENTIAN

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## Inequity Report pushes LUCC to adjust funding policies

Caleb Yuan  
Staff Writer

Following an internal funding review from the past academic year, the Lawrence University Community Council (LUCC) is working to address inequities in the funding of student organizations on campus. LUCC has begun its attempt to establish equitable funding policies for all of the student body.

According to junior Jason Bernheimer, the Vice Chair of the Committee on Diversity Affairs (CODA), CODA looked at the budget allocation made by the Finance Committee for the 2018-2019 academic year. After calculating the percentage of funds requested versus funds allocated, the data showed that, on average, diversity organizations received allocated funds 13.4 percent lower than non-diversity organizations.

Since that realization, LUCC has begun ongoing conversations regarding the funding legislation and discussing if the legislation needs certain adjustments to achieve equitable funding for all student organizations. Students can expect clearer plans about funding legislation to come out by early to mid-Spring Term, said senior Basil Eastman-Kiesow, the Parliamentarian of the LUCC cabinet.

“Essentially, LUCC seeks to add some clarity to the vernacular used in the funding legislation,” LUCC trea-

surer junior Tarrel Nedderman said. “We, as a governing body, need to be intentional in the phrases that are used for our legislation. Legislation can always be improved on for the future, and we will continue to address issues or misunderstandings of the legislation as they arise.”

Although addressing the funding inequities is still a work in progress, a few beginning steps have been made. In response to the result, LUCC and CODA came to an agreement to set aside \$7,000 to CODA as a compensation for underfunding towards diversity organizations in the last academic year, according to Bernheimer. The set aside funds were partially spent during the last academic year, and the rest was reallocated to CODA for this academic year. In addition, there are now two CODA members present in the Finance Committee meetings to help ensure funding is allocated in an equitable way that represents all of the student body in the community. These CODA representatives are non-voting members of the Finance Committee.

Diversity organizations would be able reach out to CODA directly to request funding for events from the set-aside funds without consulting the Finance Committee, according to senior Awa Badiane, Co-Chair of CODA. This was not a solution for the fact that LUCC was under-funding diversity organizations, Badiane said, but having a set-aside buffer for the time be-

ing allows LUCC to discuss the funding inequity in the future.

According to Bern-

heimer, CODA has been told by various student organizations that funding has already become more equitable. Sophomore Genesis Coreas Solorzano, President of All is One! Empowering Young Women of Color (AIO), echoed this sentiment. Several previous student leaders of diversity organizations have told her that, in the past, they have struggled to get LUCC funding due to their events being classified under a large diversity umbrella, but Coreas Solorzano feels AIO has had access to adequate funding this year.

“Being able to have more students of color on [the] LUCC board in student government allows more voices to be emphasized and creates more

[diversity] ... and [tries] to be inclusive to students who are already tokenized here,” Coreas Solorzano said.

According to Coreas Solorzano, AIO has plans for an event aimed at emphasizing the empowerment of all diversity organizations on campus. AIO has received full allocation from LUCC for the upcoming event, Coreas Solorzano said.



(RIGHT) Lawrence University Community Council's logo. Photo from lawrence.edu.

Bernheimer also stressed that the LUCC cabinet members are dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion.

“It feels great that every single member of [the] LUCC cabinet ... wants to ensure CODA to be successful,” Bernheimer said. “It’s important for leaders [in LUCC] to hold diversity and inclusion as some core values.”

## Lawrence hosts annual Lunar New Year celebration

Cameron Jones  
Staff Writer

A virtual Lunar New Year celebra-



This year, International House will serve as a destination where on-campus students can pick up goody bags as part of the Lunar New Year celebration. Photo by Sebastian Evans.

tion will be held Saturday, Feb. 13, hosted by the Diversity and Intercultural Center, the International Student Services as well as several cultur-

al student organizations. Additionally, the Chinese Students Association held a Lunar New Year Eve celebration with Assistant Professor of History Brigid Vance on Thursday, Feb. 11.

The Lunar New Year is the first day of the Lunisolar calendar and is celebrated every year by many East Asian countries. In prior school years, the Lunar New Year celebration at Lawrence has occurred in the Warch Campus Center, taking up two floors of guest performances and displays from cultural organizations. However, this year, the celebrations are going to be online as a way for everyone to celebrate.

The celebration for the Lunar New Year is going to be on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. This event is hosted by the Diversity and Intercultural Center, International Student Services, the Chinese Student Association, Korean Culture Club, Lawrence International,

Pan-Asian Organization and the Vietnamese Culture Organization. The event will be a live-streamed YouTube video featuring clips from each cultural organization. There will also be two performances.

In addition to the YouTube live, there will be a limited number of goody bags distributed in each of the dorms, Warch and International House. Each goody bag has a small gift from each of the cultural organizations. The meaning behind each gift will be explained in the YouTube live.

Junior Jamie Dong, the vice president of Lawrence International and event coordinator of the Chinese Student Association, said all students, alumni and friends are encouraged to watch the video and see what each organization put together.

“Whoever wants to come, people who have already graduated, or current students, are welcome,” Dong

said. “We want to bring everyone together.”

Prior to the YouTube live event, the Chinese Student Association held their own Lunar New Year Eve celebration via Zoom on Feb. 11. Before the Zoom, students placed orders online for food, which the Chinese Student Association provided for pickup in the International House. After that, students could eat their food and join

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To access the Lunar New Year video, scan the QR code:



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# “It’s On Us” sexual assault prevention week begins Monday

**Hannah Amell**  
Staff Writer

Next week, Lawrence is celebrating the It’s On Us Week of Action for awareness and prevention of sexual assault.

It’s On Us was established by the Obama administration in 2014 with the mission of providing preventative education on sexual assault on American college campuses. For the 2021 Week of Action at Lawrence, the Sexual Harassment and Assault Resources and Education (SHARE) department of the Wellness Center is hosting several on-campus events.

On Monday and Tuesday, Lawrence’s Sexual Assault Crisis Center advocate, Allison Bohlen, will be on the third floor of the Warch Campus Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to answer questions and share information about her role as campus advocate. Individually wrapped treats will be available for students who stop by her table during this time.

Thursday, the Student Alliance Against Sexual Harassment and Assault (SAASHA), will be hosting two “Know Your Title IX Rights” presentations at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., which will feature Interim Director of Equity and Title IX Coordinator Natasha Aguilera Wiebusch.

Title IX outlines the rights of students who have been victims of sexual assault or discrimination based on sex. Title IX regulations were recently changed by the Trump administration in legislation that went into effect on Aug. 14 of last year.

“Participating in the presentation with SAASHA is really important [to me] because I want students to understand what changes were made and what that means for the Title IX process,” Aguilera Wiebusch said. “The changes are here with us for at least a year, but the [Biden] administration and Department of Education will likely change them again ... I just want to communicate what those changes are as clearly as possible and let students know that I’m here to answer questions.”

The presentation will describe the sexual assault reporting process, supportive measures available for sexual assault survivors and the scope of Title IX resources. It will conclude with a question and answer session, first with SAASHA board members and then with Aguilera Wiebusch. Participants will have the opportunity to win prizes in a Kahoot! game following each presentation.

Junior Carla Plascencia, the publicist of SAASHA, hopes the event helps to make students more comfortable with the reporting process.

“We want to make the process [of reporting] a little less dehumanizing and a little less traumatic, so we want to tie good things to it and not make it scary,” Plascencia said. “That is something that I think is very important and different about [the Know Your Title IX Rights presentation].”

Finally, the week will finish on Friday with “Wear Teal Day” on campus. Students are encouraged to show their support for sexual assault survivors by wearing teal, the color of sexual assault awareness. Teal masks and accessories may be distributed as giveaways and prizes during “It’s On Us” events throughout the week.



Weekly updates on the status of COVID-19 at Lawrence

COVID-19 ON CAMPUS

TESTS CONDUCTED:

Total LU tests: 10,961

Total Appleton tests: 41,576

ACTIVE CASES:

Active LU cases: 11

Active Appleton cases: 422

TOTAL POSITIVE CASES:

Total LU cases: 117

Total Appleton cases: 7,734

We are in:

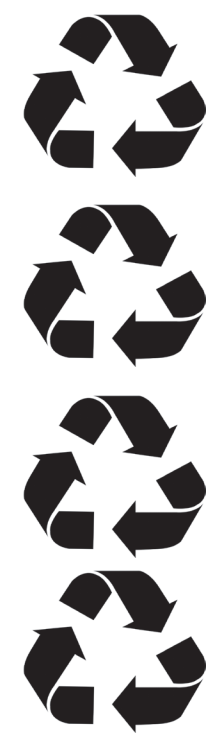
YELLOW LIGHT

In-person classes continue, non-essential employees on campus are reduced, testing increases, in-person social activities are allowed following safety guidelines and restrictions are placed on residence hall capacities.

● Limited cases on campus; widespread transmisison off campus

● Isolation and quarantine spaces available

\*data reported as of Feb. 10



Lunar New Year

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the Zoom to hear Vance talk about her experiences in China. Then, students played games like karaoke and celebrated.

President of the Chinese Student Association, senior Sheldon Xie, said that the Lunar New Year is about family and people coming together, and all students are welcome to join to learn more about how the Lunar New Year is celebrated.

“We know [that] in the past year it’s been hard because we can’t have in-person gatherings ... but we miss those good times and want to bring the whole Lawrence community together,” Xie said.

Do you have questions about any new developments on campus? Do you think The Lawrentian should be covering any specific event?

Let us know!

Send any tips or suggestions to TheLawrentianNews@gmail.com.





# Superbowl Sunday: The NFL's newest Brady Bunch dominates again

Shawn McCandlish  
*Columnist*

Sunday evening saw the crowning of a new champion in the NFL as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the defending champion, the Kansas City Chiefs, with a final score of 31-9. For Tampa, this marked their first Super Bowl victory since 2003 when they defeated the Oakland Raiders 48-21. For Kansas City, they were unable to recapture the magic from a season ago when they defeated the San Francisco 49ers, 31-20. Tampa Bay dominated all three aspects of the game: offense, defense and special teams en route to thoroughly defeating a Kansas City team that looked nothing like they had during the regular season.

Quarterback Tom Brady earned Super Bowl MVP honors for the fifth time in his career as he played an extraordinary game. Brady was on point in the game, completing 21 of 29 passes for 201 yards and three touchdowns, two of which went to star tight end Rob Gronkowski. Those two touchdown passes put Brady and Gronkowski in the lead for the most touchdowns accounted for between a quarterback and receiver in postseason history, as over their careers they have accounted for 13 touchdowns in the postseason. The running game was on point as well, as Leonard Fournette rushed 16 times for 89 yards and a touchdown run in the third quarter.

The Buccaneers' offense was helped throughout the game by mistakes made by the Chiefs' defense. The Chiefs were penalized a total of

11 times for 120 yards, with most of those penalties coming on the defensive side of the ball, whereas Tampa Bay was only penalized four times for a total of 39 yards. Those penalties were crucial, as they allowed for Tampa Bay to continue drives that had stalled out, including an off-sides on fourth and five that ended up allowing the Buccaneers to score a touchdown instead of settling for a field goal. A defensive holding penalty also overturned an interception that would have given Kansas City great field position and much needed momentum.

Field position is a battle that is often overlooked in football; however, it could be said that field position is the most crucial part of the game. This is because it dictates what types of plays can be called as well the chances of scoring, as less distance to the endzone makes it easier to score. In this game, Tampa Bay won the field position battle handily in the game, as Kansas City often started their drives deep in their own territory while Tampa Bay was able to achieve much better starts to their drives. This was in part due to the terrible special teams performance by the Chiefs, particularly by the punter Tommy Townsend who only averaged 35.7 yards per punt in the game, including a 29 yard punt that only made it to the Kansas City 38 yard-line.

While it is easy to declare how good Tampa Bay looked and how bad Kansas City looked, the Chiefs' offense had a much better day than it would seem at first. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes completed 26 of his 49 passing attempts

for 270 yards, more than Tom Brady. However, many of his 23 incompletions came at critical junctures of the game, such as third or fourth downs. Many of the incompletions cannot be pinned on Mahomes, though, as he managed to make some miraculous throws that prevented loss of yardage that were accurate but not caught by his receivers. Several of these were in the red zone as well, where a completion would have given Kansas City a touchdown. Mahomes was also pressured consistently throughout the game as the Buccaneers pass rush kept getting to him, forcing him out of the pocket and into bad situations.

There were many other notable statistics that arose from this game, both on and off the field. As mentioned before, Brady and Gronkowski made history as the best quarterback-receiver tandem in post-season history with 13 touchdowns between the two. For Brady as well, he notched his seventh Super Bowl victory, which is the most ever in NFL history. He now also has more Super Bowl victories as a person than any NFL team has in history. He previously was tied with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Dallas Cowboys with six victories apiece; however, he now stands alone at the pinnacle. There were also notable stats from the Chiefs as well, as when they kicked a field goal in the first quarter to take a 3-0 lead, they extended their streak of games where they held a lead at any point in the game to a remarkable 62 games. While the Super Bowl this year may not be remembered by much outside of the score and a fourth-quarter streaker, these statistics will remain in the books forever.

# Unusual Sports: Brains and brawn in chess boxing

Kelli Quick  
*Columnist*

What is chess boxing? It is a combination of the two sports meshed together to make a new one. It was invented by a French comic book artist known as Enki Bilal. This idea was then later adapted into a sport by Lepe Rubingh after being inspired by the comic book. Chess boxing is fairly new; people just started playing competitively around 1992. What makes this sport so unique? Normally, in chess, for example, you rely on your brains, you make calculations to try to foresee upcoming moves; this requires no strength whatsoever. Boxing, on the other hand, even though one can argue there are some strategies and that it takes some level of intelligence to box, is mostly a physical sport. But, by combining both, it requires the athlete to be able to switch off and rely on both their brains and their muscles to win this game! This sport is most popular in the following countries: England, Germany, Netherlands, France, Russia and Japan.

How do you play chess boxing? It involves alternating between playing chess and boxing. First, you start off playing chess, then you switch to boxing and so on. The match consists of 11 rounds — six rounds of chess and five rounds of boxing. You also get a minute grace period in-between rounds when transitioning from playing chess to boxing and vise-versa. The chess round only consists of about four minutes and three minutes for boxing, meaning it is more like speed chess. If the referees think that you are deliberately trying to waste time or are not playing fast enough, they give you 10 seconds to make your move, in chess. How do you win? You can win in two different ways, either through chess or boxing. For example, you can win by beating your opponent in chess. However, if it results in a stalemate, which is rare, but sometimes happens, then whoever has the most points in boxing wins. If, somehow, there is a draw with the boxing points, it is deemed that whoever was playing with the black chess pieces win. To sum up: to win you must either get checkmate or receive a withdrawal from the chess game. You also can win by knocking

your opponent out in boxing or by gaining more boxing points if chess is a draw.

An interesting rule that this game has is that, in order to qualify to compete, the contestant/athlete must have a chess rating of at least 1800 to compete in this sport. This means they must qualify as a class A category 1 player, which ranges from a score of 1800 to 2000. To help put this in perspective, most players who are considered as a “novice” in the game of chess fall within the 1200 and below category. This means that you cannot just be a person who plays chess for fun; you actually have to be good and not considered average if you want to compete in this sport! Not only do you have to be good at chess, but you have to be able to remain intellectually sharp after who knows how many blows to the face, and that skill requires concentration. In chess, you must defend your pieces, but, in the boxing, you must physically defend yourself. The balance between switching from intellect and strength is what makes this sport so tough and unique!

If you or someone else was thinking of pursuing chess boxing, it pays around \$21 per hour, not too bad if you are passionate about those two sports! However, the downside of this sport is the injuries. There is no doubt that chess boxing is a test of the body and the mind. Your body has to absorb multiple punches to the head, and then you have to quickly transition back to playing a high-level game of chess. This is where mental toughness comes into play! Ironically, most of the players who play this sport are not too concerned about the impact it may have on them intellectually — after repeatedly getting punched in the face — but, nonetheless there are still risks, and to ignore and dismay those claims would be both negligent and ignorant. Did you know that the speed of a boxing punch is a minimum of 10 meters per second when it hits the eye or the head? After a fight, dark spots that show bleeding can be seen on an MRI brain scan. This usually occurs after a traumatic brain injury, also known in this sport as a knockout. With these risks in mind, are you still willing to subject your mind and body to this kind of trauma?

# The grandeur of Tom Brady

Aaron Pelavin  
*Columnist*

While I was watching the game Sunday night, I found myself focused more on Twitter than the game, as the game was resoundingly disappointing and unspectacular. What was more interesting was what people were talking about. I found tweets emerging from Twitter's algorithm inquiring as to whether the Bucs were the greatest team ever assembled and laughed at the absurdity of such a statement. Clearly the 2007 Patriots put together the best assortment of talent and had the most impressive run of results, excluding their loss in Super Bowl XLII to potential Hall of Famer Eli Manning. But more prevalent were the tweets hailing Tom Brady as the single GOAT of athletics, which begs the question — what is a GOAT?

GOAT is an acronym for Greatest of All Time. As I will be using the term, the GOAT of any given institution is whoever resides at the pinnacle of the discourse regarding GOATness, the measuring stick for immortality in the collective unconscious. Many wars have been waged, literally and figuratively, in the name of GOAT discourse. Some sports are polyGOATistic. I would say that association football is one of them. Because of the vast scale and variety of contexts in which soccer has been played in, there are too many metrics of success to determine a single GOAT. Many point to Pele as the GOAT for his success with Brazil's national team at four World Cups, while others point towards either Messi or Ronaldo as the pinnacle of their sport. However, discourse surrounding American football, one of our most American institutions, is very centered on one thing: myths of exceptionalism.

People most frequently relay the Myth of Brady as follows: Bill Belichick is having a rough time coaching the New England Patriots. He went 5-11 in his first season in charge of one of the least successful franchises in NFL

history. Expectations for the 2001 Patriots are low, and they lose their first game of the season. Then 9/11 happens. Things look bad for Patriots everywhere, and the team loses their first game back from the mourning period. Worse yet, their starting quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, went down hurt, and Belichick is forced to turn to his backup, Tom Brady. The team only managed to put up a pathetic three points throughout four quarters of football, failing to find the endzone. Things were not looking good for the 0-2 Patriots. Then, something changed.

In a matchup that would go on to become an all-too-common feature of the AFC side of the NFL playoff bracket, Tom Brady's Patriots beat the hell out of Peyton Manning's Colts. In his first game as an NFL starter, Tom Brady fails to throw a single touchdown yet leads his team to a 44-13 steering of the Colts. The Patriots rally into the playoffs and proceed to deal a crushing blow to the Oakland Raiders in the famous Tuck Rule Game. The Raiders never recovered and are doing some soul-searching out in the Hamakhaave desert. Brady earns his first of many Super Bowl rings in a game in which he threw more interceptions than touchdowns.

His partnership with Belichick went on to be known as The Evil Empire. Everyone either loved the Patriots or despised them. They repeatedly assembled the best teams available for the cheapest price because all the labor wants to be where the success is — a very American custom. The Patriots went from being the AFC East's punching bag to the most successful team in Super Bowl history thanks to the Brady-Belichick epoch. The thing that fascinates me most about Brady's GOATness is the fact that he is by no means the greatest quarterback among his contemporaries, let alone the best to ever set foot on the gridiron.

Tom Brady has never been the best quarterback in the league. His skillset is quite limited; he can stand in the pocket and throw the ball rela-

tively far. People noticed that. His pictures at the 2000 NFL Combine are the stuff of legends. They depict some average white guy, not the pseudointellectual fitness guru he went on to become. No one batted an eye when he got drafted 199th overall. All the records he holds are cumulative, and he will leave behind a colossal oeuvre when he retires, never having set a single-season record.

So, how has he won so much if he has never been the best? You cannot simply assign the blame for his success on his career's longevity. While Tom Brady has had the second longest career, excluding kickers and punters, plenty of players have had long careers and failed to win many championships. Charles Woodson played in the league for 17 seasons. If all 32 teams in the NFL were assumed to be equally likely to win the Super Bowl any given year, one would conclude that any player, regardless of quality, would have a 53.125 percent chance of winning a Super Bowl through sheer entropy. Therefore, a Hall of Famer like Woodson would probably be able to successfully find a way to win more than one Super Bowl in his career, even given the limitations of contractual labor in the NFL. But he only managed to win one, making him an average player in the eyes of pure reason. But humans are not rational. Heck, life is irrational. Tom Brady exemplifies this fact.

Despite wearing a helmet throughout the season that declared END RACISM in the tiniest font on the back, Tom Brady said something to Tyrann Matthieu last Sunday night that Matthieu says he won't repeat. Touchdown Tom portrays himself as a very nice guy. He smiled for the cameras, brought well known scientific health facts to the masses and shook every hand presented to him, all while being the face of THE EVIL EMPIRE, the New England Patriots. How did he manage this feat?

Brady attributes much of his success to his sports psychologist, Greg Harden. In an interview on Howard Stern's radio show last April, Brady

cried as he sang the praises of the man who taught him not to be “a victim.” That contempt for personal victimhood may be the key to his success. Brady is the GOAT because he has hacked the discourse, not because of his individual greatness. When every loss your team experiences is a learning experience rather than something completely out of your control, one would assume that people and teams lose because they had been inherently lesser in the moment, which is the rational conclusion. But the universe is deeply irrational. If the point of life is to live, why do living things die? Why do atoms, supposedly the most basic units of existence, consist of constituent parts that each have their own corresponding constituencies? Why is Tom Brady the GOAT? Because of his context.

Tom Brady and I are from the same neck of the woods. We both hail from Silicon Valley, the center of modernity. It would be safe to assume Brady came from a well-to-do family, considering the regularity with which he was able to attend San Francisco 49ers' games. He did not choose to be born into this family, let alone be born at all. There is very little to be learned from birth that is helpful to winning at sports, so, Touchdown Tom failed to internalize its most important les-

son: there are things that exist beyond our control.

Therefore, I would like to come to this conclusion: not only is Tom Brady the GOAT of American football, he is the GOAT of America. If Karl Marx is held to be the embodiment of the specter of communism, Tom Brady is a golden god of capitalism that will do everything in his power to stop communism, whatever the heck that means. My favorite part about this conflict between communism and capitalism is that both sides think they want the same thing: freedom. America loves imposing its view of freedom on the global stage, an act which is inherently violent! And violence is literally the opposite of freedom. It is imposing one's will onto others. Like America is a deeply white state built on the labor of systemically oppressed African Americans as well as other minorities. Tom Brady is a deeply white man whose legacy is built on the labor of systemically oppressed African Americans and other minorities, from Randy Moss to Aaron Hernandez; people who were criminalized in society by factors beyond their control. Tom Brady is the banal face of the Evil Empire, yet people who hate him are simply “jealous.” Tom Brady is America, and therein lies his grandeur.



# Almost Heaven

By Rachel Robrecht

*Previously: Refusing to live the rest of their lives in a bunker, Lyra and Alice are taking one last grand tour road trip during the apocalypse.*

“I miss real camping,” Alice sighs, leaning back on her elbows. Lyra bites a hunk of SPAM off the skewer. “I miss real food.”

The portable stove they sit around isn’t an actual campfire, but it’s made to flicker like one for ambiance. Soft orange light dances on the walls, bounces off the shiny fabric of their Envirosuits, laid to air out next to their sleeping bags. The Envirosuits probably don’t fully protect from the radiation outside anymore, and the basement of this abandoned office building surely isn’t deep enough in the ground for them to safely take the suits off, but they agreed that some shielding is better than none. After all, there’s a huge difference between getting cancer in a few years from a slow build-up of exposure and the more acute effects of radiation poisoning. Lyra would gladly lay uncovered beneath the desert sky if her skin wouldn’t blister over in the night.

“Vegetables don’t grow so well anymore,” Alice reminds her, “Be grateful for the SPAM.” At Lyra’s disgusted noise, Alice says, “If you close your eyes, it’s almost bacon.”

Letting her eyes drift shut as she chews, Lyra finds she can’t disagree. “What do you want to do tomorrow?” She asks after a moment, “Hoover Dam?”

“I had something a bit more fun in mind first.” The tone in Alice’s voice manages to somehow pique both Lyra’s interest and concern.

“What is it?”

“Tell me, Ly,” Alice grins. “Do you want to believe?”

“Oh, Jesus Christ.” Lyra shakes her head, laughing. “No. There is no way we’re getting in there.”

“What, you think anyone’s still guarding it?”

“Well, no,” Lyra admits. “But if that’s the case, you think they left anything worthwhile behind?”

Alice waggles her eyebrows. “Only one way to find out.”

“God. I can’t believe you’re

making me break into Area 51.” Thoughtful, Lyra tilts her head. “Actually, wait. I can totally believe it.”

“And it’ll be fun!” Alice says, clapping her hands together.

Lyra mutters, “It’ll be something,” and switches off the portable stove.

\*

“Okay, to be fair, I’m not sure what I expected. But this is literally just a bunch of buildings,” Lyra complains as they step out of the transport.

“Well, it is an airbase.” Alice starts walking towards one of the larger structures. “Besides, most of the cool stuff is supposed to be underground.”

“Yeah, in one of the U.S. Military bunkers,” Lyra quips.

Shooting her a glare, Alice rolls her eyes. “Stop being such a pessimist and help me look for an entrance.”

Lyra walks the perimeter of a building, watching the air shimmer over the pavement from the sun beating down on the baked earth. The cooling system in her suit protects her from the brunt of the heat, but she can still feel it radiating from outside, like standing next to a fire.

The outside of the building seems to be covered by a metal shell, pulled down to shutter it from intruders. Squinting from the glare of sunlight off the walls, she can’t even see a window to smash.

“Any luck?” She calls out to Alice.

“Maybe?” Alice shouts back. “Come over here.”

Poking her head around the building, Lyra sees Alice standing by a metal box next to the road. After making her way over, she asks, “What’s this?”

“Not sure, but it has a keypad,” Alice explains. “Maybe it raises the shields? I’ve got no clue about the passcode, though.”

Lyra hums and feigns scratching her chin over her helmet. “Lemme try,” she says, reaching across to the keypad. After a moment’s hesitation, she types in 1234 and hits Enter.

The panel blinks red and reads,

“Incorrect Passcode: 2 Attempts Remaining.”

Lyra snorts, and Alice nudges her shoulder, chuckling. “I could’ve told you that wasn’t going to work, dumbass,” Alice teases.

“Think you can do better?”

Grinning, Alice says, “Yes, actually.” With a flourish, she brings her hand to the keypad, typing in 42069 and pressing Enter.

As expected, the panel turns red again. They turn to look at each other, bursting into laughter the moment they make eye contact.

Lyra clutches her stomach, doubling over. “Oh my God,” she wheezes.

“What if that was it, though?” Alice asks, tears of mirth shining in her eyes. “Could you imagine?”

Taking a few deep breaths, Lyra attempts to collect herself. “We probably shouldn’t try again, right?”

“Yeah, no, I don’t wanna get blown up just yet.” Alice lowers herself to the dusty ground and sighs. “Damn. I wanted to see the aliens.”

Lyra takes a seat next to her. “You really think the military wouldn’t have whipped out the secret alien tech in the eleventh hour if they had it?”

Frowning, Alice stares out at the dust being blown in the wind. “You’ve got a point. I guess I just wanted there to be ... proof, you know? That there’s something else. That we’re not all there is.”

“Statistically speaking, there are definitely aliens out there somewhere. If that makes you feel better.” Lyra traces idle patterns in the dirt with her fingertips. “But I get what you mean. It’d suck if we were the only life in the universe, and we burned ourselves out.”

“Yeah,” Alice says, voice soft. “It really would.”

There’s nothing in the clear blue sky but a few drifting wisps of white clouds. Lyra tilts her head back to peer up at it, anyway.

*Join us next week for another installment of this term’s apocalyptic roadtrip serial: Almost Heaven! Missed a chapter? Catch up on lawrentian.com.*

# Credit Wear Credit is Due

By Kelly Foy

This is going to be jaw-dropping. I know, but I can’t be sorry. Can someone please, pretty please, with sugar on top, explain the hype around high-top converse still? Before I begin, I just want to say, this is purely based on my experience with high-top converse. I respect them, and I think they are a very highly regarded shoe — mad respect for the high-top converse.

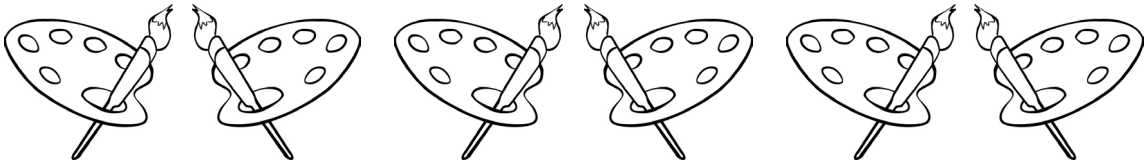
So, I’d be remiss to say I don’t know this history of the classic shoe. So, after a quick hop-skip-and jump over to Wikipedia, I have my knowledge. Converse became quite big during WWII when they were making shoes for the military. That reminds me of when people started wearing camo pants they found at the thrift store (guilty as charged) and wearing them around as if they didn’t look like a laser tag instructor. I can make fun of it because I did it. Just kidding, you should express yourself however! Who am I to judge? So, before they started making shoes for the WWII military, it turns out they made basketball shoes, and, apparently, some man named Chuck Taylor made them famous. This makes sense because, on multiple occasions, someone has been like, “Nice Chucks!” and I’ve rebutted, “Why did you call them Chucks?” then I have the same conversation literally every time and subsequently forget. According to Wikipedia, at one point Converse had a monopoly over shoes! Until Puma, Nike and Addidas came along. Converse ran so Nike can walk, haha, get it? Cause they’re shoes? Good for running and walking!

Nonetheless, though informative and interesting, this history does not clear up my beef with hightop converse. I suppose my big beef is that they tend to shrivel up? I’m not sure if this is a universal thing, or

maybe I just have weird feet (they are strangely wide). However, I used to be a big proponent for black high-top converse, until every pair I had would bend and fold and fade strangely. Nevertheless, I’d be lying if I said they were not the best dang gym shoe substitute ever. Of course, they didn’t have any support and often squeezed my feet, but I looked pretty fly during gym class, and I didn’t have to buy a pair of expensive gym shoes.

I see so many people rocking all different types of converse these days, and it makes me elated! Reds, greens, oranges, purples and custom-designed ones! Despite my love for other people wearing converse, I simply wish they fit better on my feet and didn’t strangely fall in on the sole. When I was an avid converse wearer, I will admit that I wore them a lot, like every day. So, perhaps it was an aftercare issue or the fact that I am really hard on my clothing, but maybe I just need to give converse another chance!

The initial time I ever got converse was when I was in choir in 5th grade, which was probably the most un-cool thing you can do in 5th grade, and we needed black shoes for a concert. So, like any unprepared 5th grader in choir, I told my dad with an insufficient time to pick out black dress shoes. So, I ended up with converse. Not to be that person, but I was rockin’ these shoes before my friends were. I remember owning at least a couple of white and black pairs. Then, I think I had a peachy raspberry pair. Oh, memory lane! It has been fascinating to see how a shoe that’s so old and has been used for so many purposes became one of the standard tennis shoes seen on the Lawrence University campus. Brava!



# In a Snowflake

By Nupur Vaghasia

Me on my way to my room while dying inside :

Getting inside the warm room which feels so good :

Suddenly, starting to sweat five seconds later :



# Sociolinguistics in Practice: Oxford Talk, Part Two

By Lauren Kelly

Anthony Burgess’s “A Clockwork Orange” (1962), with its intuitive vocabulary, has inspired me to document my linguistic environments. I will write about a different setting each week without explaining any vocabulary used. I hope readers will gradually learn what these words mean as they read on and notice if I insert a word that does not belong. Through this, I will explore belonging: does knowing the words of an environment help increase belonging, even if one has never been in the environment themselves?

And again, I walk into the kitchen and get “hiya” and “you’re alright” but is it a question or a statement, how do I respond? Our lovely scout and George say that the most so I ask George and he says it’s not really either. So I don’t use it because I don’t get it. That’s morning but it’s a Thursday and I have my tute on Friday with Sally but gosh I haven’t read Under Western Eyes yet but at least I read the secondary readings hmm it’s almost like I haven’t managed my time and the reading lists are too long and this week is just my primary tutorial but I didn’t do all the reading oh no. I flee into Christchurch Meadows into the gate that goes by the Botanical Garden on High Street down to College. Go to the pidge room and check my pidge but the Porters aren’t masked and no mail lonely and then it’s lunch so I watch for Simpkins the cutie in the marquee. Pop off as they say into the library get what I requested on SOLO for my secondary tute. I got

my takeaway and there’s rocket and cutlery and crisps and and and how many pounds is this? No Simpkins so I leave but hope tomorrow has steak pie and as I leave I see the Bod and the bridge our bridge. I go onto Broad street and think of Hassan’s and escape onto Cornmarket into Boots and see a queue for Pret because of the subscription scheme. Should I walk down to Westgate into Sainsbury’s? I could get more wine gums and Cadbury’s or British milk not Wisconsin milk. I stop and get the paper because it’s historic I’m here in a historical moment oh why can’t I do my work? Back on St Aldate’s and away from City Centre past historical buildings historical time and back past Christchurch with the Porters in the face shields no masks and oh yes no one is wearing a mask but me. Right. Should I go down past Folly bridge and the Grad Centre or quarantine room before Abingdon house and all the way to Sally’s boat? No, that’s tomorrow. Gosh that’s right. Back to my accommodation Mary Warnock not Geoffrey Warnock and heater on to 80 degrees I think Fahrenheit but I don’t remember but it wouldn’t make sense as Celsius but who knows, not me George Ben or Polly. Hand sanitizer hang up mask hide phone sit. Try to work. Uh I guess I’ll write about this with this, yeah. I like Conrad’s background yeah and Maya Jasanoff is so cool. Type type type check Oxlove Oxfess message boyfriend who’s peng as they say. Everyone is finally up! I make peppermint tea but still don’t know how to use the kettle so I use the micro-

wave. Ben’s watching football as they say and they lost so he’s gutted as they say and takes the Hoover as they say and I see the sign now says please take advantage of the alcohol ... sanitizer is now gone. Reminds me that the Brits don’t have fraternities they have secret drinking societies but those are problematic and only the Tory posh kids at Christchurch or St John’s still have them but shhh they’re the wealthy schools. Hertford again is cool except for second floor but they’re Ben’s mates as they say so I have to be quiet when I use my 11-digit new number on my new pay-as-you-go vodafone to call the welfare deans oops. Now it’s midnight my time 6 p.m. home time or home time their time? But need my mill ear plugs to drown out the endless drunk karaoke, endless Arctic Monkeys over and over 2 a.m. still no essay done. Stress dream up early turn it in from @hertford.ox.ac.uk to Sally down the Thames Path run run run almost 20 minutes past the rowers and the bikes and the horses with shirts and then the swans. I made it to the narrowboat and in. It ended up being a good tute. Some black tea and milk, good biscuits, dark chocolate with peppermint. I feel relaxed. I leave, and I am done. Until the cramming for both tutes and the EFL Bod Rad Cam Gladstone Link RAI circuit again. But first, date night on WhatsApp, English breakfast no beans with an exhausted viewing of The Crown, walks, and gentle work. What a historical time it is and I am probably not doing this all right but hey, this is unprecedented ... I’m alright.

# The Beached Whale

By Willem Villerius

Sometimes, I was a beached whale. I spent life; plowing forward through a vast ocean full of stuff and things. Vaguely consuming everything as I swam by. Baleen skimming through it all with no teeth to sink in.

On time, I was my own. I found myself; detached from any pod. In a vast abyss as I was discovering and lost. Fins pushing through the very same water.

In time, I was huge. I felt my weight; pushing things away and pulling towards. Myself a ball and chain sinking me further into a secure abyss. Tail clinging sunward.

At times, I was singing. I signaled my feelings; to be detached. Singing alone seeking others and singing with others seeking alone. Straight from the whale’s mouth.

The times, I was searching. I sought what; food or company from the pole. The ships’ sonar pushed me back and fro. I felt it from my bones.

Like times, I was breaching. I was up; to the sky coming back

down. Reaching from the boundless bounds. A body against the sun or moon.

To times, I was floating. I was pushing and pulled; by the tide to the shore. The sand set off my body. A completed whale.

The time, I was beached. I was wailing; for shore. I was a whale on a beach. I wailed a while, me the whale.

Over time, I was slipping. I fell back; to sea. I went asleep into the salt then awake in the spray. All’s calm before the mind after the storm.

Out of time, I was a whale. I beached; my body on the shore. I went out and went out. I was a whale.

End times, I was wailing. I finished; on the shore. I went out and left the shore. It was over.

Of time, I was out of it. I drank in; the salty sea. I let it out too and back in. And on.

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# Duality

By McKinley Breen

Lo and Behold the  
duality of nature

Nothing is better than  
a good poop

And nothing is  
worse than a bad one



# Black History Month: Fred Hampton

Dani Massey  
Features Section Editor

Frederick Allen Hampton, or as history knows him, Fred Hampton is a name many of my white friends have never heard. When I learned this, it became absolutely necessary that I make my next story about him to share the impact he has had on civil and class issues in the U.S. It could not have been more perfect timing. This is his story. Hampton was born Aug. 30, 1948 in what is now Maywood, Illinois (Mack, 2015). He was especially good in school and in sports, hoping to one day play for the New York Yankees. He graduated from Proviso East High School with honors, varsity letters, and Junior Achievement Award in 1966. After, he enrolled at Triton Junior College in River Grove, Ill. where he majored in pre-law (Gottlieb & Cohen, 1976). Hampton then became involved with his community, showing strong leadership skills in his activity with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Through this organization, Hampton aimed to improve educational facilities in the impoverished Black communities that permeate the Chicagoland area. He aimed for social change through community organization and nonviolent activism (National Archives).

In Nov. 1968, Hampton joined the Black Panther Party (BPP) Illinois chapter as he was attracted by the 10-Point Program it used for Black empowerment and equal rights. Most notably, Hampton’s activism within the Party resulted in a nonaggression pact among Chicago’s powerful gangs at the time (southside-weekly.com, 2016). The alliance among these multi-racial groups became the Rainbow Coalition. Once the groups organized, they could then peacefully picket, fighting against poverty, corruption, police brutality and substandard housing. They held protests, strikes and demonstrations when the groups had common cause (Serrato, 2019). The groups would also go out to support another’s event when they could (Mccanne).

During this time, Hampton took on more and more leadership within the BPP. He was popular and very active, making him a good fit to lead the Chicago chapter. He led weekly rallies, strikes and worked with the BPP’s free medical People’s Clinic by teaching classes about political education. Hampton was also an important figure in the formation of the BPP’s Free Breakfast for School Children Program in Oakland, Calif. during Jan. of 1969 (Bush, 2000). Although there were previous efforts made by the federal government to create such a program before the Black Panther Party’s initiative, such programs were not successful until post BPP efforts. The Program was run simply by Party members

and volunteers who collected food donations at grocery stores after consulting with nutritionists to develop healthy breakfasts for children free of cost. The results were astounding to school boards and was eagerly implemented in schools nationwide with the Party’s help. Children could focus, participate, stay awake at their desks and no longer cried from hunger throughout the day (Blakemore). At this point, Hampton became the chairman of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party (Bush, 2000).

Despite the wild success and progress made in America’s public schools, the FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover considered Hampton a major threat. At this time, the FBI was actively trying to prevent Black movements from gaining traction in the U.S. because they believed it was a steppingstone to a revolution that could threaten for the United States’ government. This proved problematic for Hampton’s chapter and the groups involved with Chicago-based coalitions (Therlee, 2018). The FBI opened a file on Hampton in 1967 and in 1968 he was placed on the FBI’s “Alligator index” as a “key militant leader” (Wall, 1988). In 1968, the FBI sent informant William O’Neal, twice arrested for car theft, and offered pardon of his felony should he agree, to infiltrate the Chicago Black Panther Party as counterintelligence (Hampton et al, 1979). O’Neal quickly rose in the organization and became Hampton’s bodyguard. In short, the FBI caused rifts between the BPP and Students for a Democratic Society, provoked several murders, distributed misinformation about the Rainbow coalition and circulated racist cartoons in Panthers’ names. Hoover demanded that the COINTELPRO end the BPP’s “serve the people” motives as a goal in their Rainbow Coalition investigations (Churchill, 2017). The FBI actively encouraged violence and infighting between the Panthers, other radical groups and the Chicago Police Department (Newton, 2017).

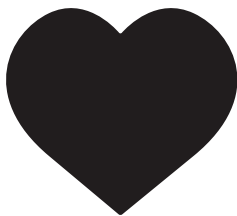
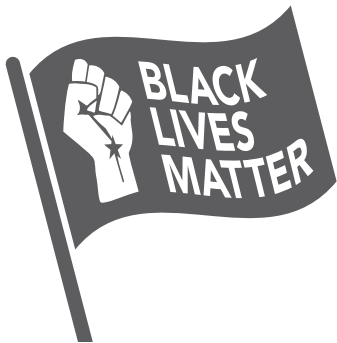
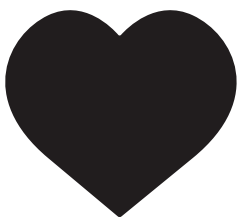
On Dec. 4, 1969, Fred Hampton was assassinated in his bed as a result of COINTELPRO activity to prevent further Party development and leadership. Hampton was appointed to become the Party’s Central Committee’s Chief of Staff and would have if he were not killed that night (Democracy Now!, February 1, 2021). The previous night, Dec. 3, Hampton had a typical night of responsibilities. He was not known to do drugs, but later investigations have found traces of barbiturates in Hampton’s blood, which leads to suspicions that he had been drugged that night (Haas, 2010). The drug was later identified as sleep agent secobarbital (Churchill, Wall, 2002). His home was raided by a 14-man team of the SAO (Special Prosecutions Unit) with a search warrant for illegal weapons (Wall, 1988). The raid was organized

by Cook County State’s Attorney Edward Hanrahan after he was recently criticized by Hampton, saying that his “war on gangs” was really a “war on Black youth” (Berger, 2009). At 4 a.m., heavily armed police stormed the apartment and instantly killed Mark Clark who was on security duty at 4:45 a.m. Afterwards, they entered Hampton and his fiancée’s bedroom, forcing the pregnant woman out and aimed for Hampton’s head. He was wounded in the shoulder. He was dragged to the door to lay in a pool of his blood (“Hampton v. City of Chicago, et al.,” 1978). Hampton was only 21 years old when he was killed by a COINTELPRO team. He now rests at Bethel Cemetery in Haynesville, La.

Decades later and less than a month ago, hundreds of pages of documents were recovered by Chicago-based historian, Aaron Leonard ‘s continuous investigation of the case in January of this year. The journalist found striking evidence that FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, was intimately involved in the assassination of Fred Hampton (Democracy Now!, 2021), according to newly recovered evidence about the FBI’s involvement in Hampton’s death. Over 200 volumes of information were confirmed to be suppressed by the FBI (Taylor & Haas, 2021). These documents are available for public viewing on the FBI’s website under Freedom of Information laws (UNESCO). Ironically enough, the recent release of a Fred Hampton biopic film, “Judas and the Black Messiah,” coincided with the revelation of the important evidence against Hoover. The movie’s premiere was Feb. 1, 2021, at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival, and critics have been raving ever since. The film has even won the American Film Institute Award (AFI Awards 2021) and the National Board of Review Award (Deadline Hollywood, 2021) in the short period since its release. It is also nominated for seven other awards, including Daniel Kaluuya’s nomination for a Golden Globe Best Supporting Actor Award in his role of Fred Hampton himself (Golden Globes, 2021).

Fred Hampton has touched countless lives and changed our country for the better. After 51 years since his passing, the young man is still relevant to Black America and all civil justice work. You were taken from us too soon, Fred. But perhaps it’s true that only the good die young.

*If you would like to submit artwork of Fred Hampton for print since his photographs have extensive restrictions and sadly could not be printed in this edition, please contact Dani Massey via email at masseyd@lawrence.edu.*



## LU Reads

Dannielle Konz  
Editor-in-chief

In an effort to bring students, faculty and staff together during the cold winter months, four faculty members have come together to create LU Reads, a weekly Zoom meeting open to all to come together and listen to read-alouds of children’s books. This event is the brainchild of Reference Librarian and Instruction Coordinator Gretchen Revie; Assistant Professor of Education Stephanie Burdick-Shepherd; Instructor of Freshman Studies, and Senior Experience Coordinator and Lecturer of Biology Amy Nottingham-Martin; and Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life Linda Morgan-Clement. As to how the project came about, Revie said, “Folks in the library were thinking about ways to connect with the campus community and to build and sustain those kinds of connections.” And the 20-minute Zoom meetings on Wednesday nights are one way to do just that. “Those of us in fairly different departments all recognized our campus needs,” Burdick-Shepherd added. “I was fairly excited because [my] course asks the question ‘Why read children’s books?’ and one of those reasons is to connect with people.”

Since the second week, every Wednesday at 7 p.m., these four coordinators have hopped on to Zoom for a 20-minute children’s book reading session with various faculty, staff and students, sometimes to read books themselves and sometimes

just to listen. Each week, two new readers share their love for children’s books with the rest of the group. Some of the readers are faculty and staff who tune in and others are students from Burdick-Shepherd’s education studies class, Why Read Children’s Books? “It’s great to connect with people who share a love of children’s books,” Nottingham-Martin said of the event.

The coordinators expressed that what we all need to be reading right now has changed because of the pandemic, and children’s books are one option for that change. “We can’t go back to our normal genres,” Burdick-Shepherd shared. “We are finding that we are unable to immerse ourselves in what we usually would.” The organizers have found that children’s books are one way to break out of that rut where normal coping mechanisms and normal reading habits just aren’t cutting it anymore for some.

Further, with the pandemic causing so much stress for everyone, the desire to turn back the clock can be appealing. LU Reads may be an excellent opportunity to do a little bit of that by diving into childhood favorites and trying out a genre of books that most adults don’t read often. Morgan-Clement said, “It’s also a way into that part of our lives that we are longing to have filled with reading and hope.”

With so many meetings and activities happening online these days, Zoom fatigue is a genuine problem for many, so, tuning in to yet another online meeting outside of normal working hours may sound a bit painful to say the least. But, Morgan-

Join the LU Reads  
weekly Zoom meeting  
Here!



Clement shared, “I never dread this, even though it’s on Zoom. We invite each other into our real lives and can just tune in ... It’s not stressful; it’s just receiving. It’s still books, but it’s books as a gift instead of books as an assignment with tons of stress.” The hope is that everyone else who shows up to listen feels the same way and leaves feeling filled up instead of drained.

Looking forward to the future of the LU Reads project, the group is considering continuing as they have been but are also looking into trying to do a read-through of a longer children’s chapter book that would span several weeks instead of multiple shorter picture books as they have been doing now. So, stay tuned for updates on that in future terms.

Burdick-Shepherd encourages everyone to come to the weekly event, as LU Reads is a great way to relax and connect with others. With children or without, all are invited to attend. It’s 20 minutes where you can stop whatever you are doing and tune in. If you need any more incentive to check out the event, there are many cats who make consistent appearances throughout the readings. Burdick-Shepherd wants anyone and everyone who can to attend no matter where you are or what you are doing to “come as you are, when you are.”

*If you would like to tune in and join many other lovers of children’s books, hop on to Zoom at 7 p.m. every Wednesday by scanning the QR code above.*



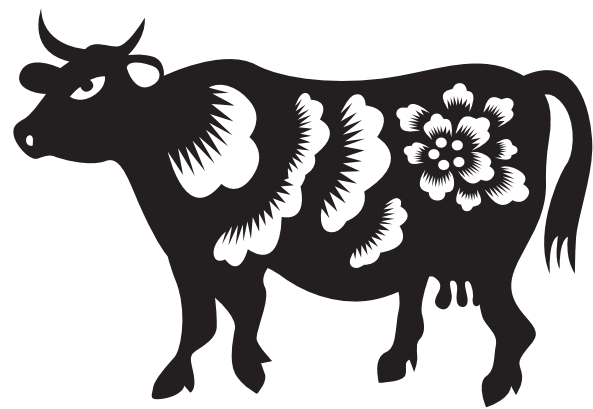
# Lunar New Year: The Ox

Dani Massey  
Features Section Editor

Around the world and throughout history, people have celebrated the new year. New years are not always celebrated at the same time of year. The World Calendar is an adapted version of the Gregorian calendar and is acknowledged internationally. Historically, some regions have celebrated the new year based on their religious calendars. For example, Russia would observe the new year on the day of the Epiphany, which happens several days after the Orthodox Christmas Day. In many other places, a lunisolar or lunar calendar is used which measures the phases of the moon to determine the season. The name Lunar New Year is celebrated by people in China and locations in Asia’s eastern regions. Lunar New Year is also known as the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival. Which name is used is based on cultural traditions and location. The upcoming Lunar New Year will take place on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021.

Chinese New Year is one of China’s most important holidays and is known as Spring Festival there. Traditionally, the Spring Festival has been used to honor ancestors and deities. Some typical traditions include an annual New Year’s Eve family reunion dinner; spring cleaning to sweep away ill-fortune and welcome good luck for the new year; paper decorations at doors and windows with symbols of good fortune, happiness, wealth and longevity. Lighting firecrackers and giving money in red envelopes are examples of other activities. Sharing food is also another important part of the Spring Festival. However, the customs and traditions for the Festival vary widely across regions.

The public holiday can be celebrated for up to 15 days, during which numerous festivities take place. The tradition of the first day is to honor one’s elders and families. On this day, the red envelopes with cash inside, known as hongbao in Mandarin, are exchanged among married people while the younger family members typically receive a good luck blessing inside for the new year. Day two has traditionally been a day for married daughters to visit their birth families, other relatives and close friends. The third day is known as Chikou (“red mouth”) or Chikou’s Day, with Chikou translated as “red dog”— an epithet of the “God of Blazing Wrath.” On this day, rural villagers burn paper offerings over trash fires. It is unlucky to visit or have guests on this day.



On the fourth day, things go back to normal for communities who celebrate all 15 days — business as usual returns. The fifth day is known as the God of Wealth’s birthday. In China, firecrackers are set off to gain Guan Yu’s attention and favor in the new year. On the sixth day, also known as Horse’s Day, the Ghost of Poverty is driven out. The garbage accumulated during the festival thus far is taken out to send away precious poverty and hardship. The seventh day, Renri is known as the common people’s birthday on which everyone grows another year older. Buddhists will not eat meat on this day. On the eighth day, another family dinner is held.

On day nine, prayers are said to the Jade Emperor of Heaven in the Daoist Pantheon. This day is especially important for the Hokkein people. The following day, the 10th day of Chinese New Year is considered the Jade Emperor’s birthday, and a party is thrown. And on the 15th day, the Lantern Festival, or Yuanxiao Festival, is celebrated. Lots of delicious food is served on this day too. As the name suggests, the Lantern Festival is a traditional event that features colorful paper lanterns set alight. On this day, children will try to solve the riddles inscribed upon the lanterns. In olden times, young people would seek romantic partners on this day accompanied by a matchmaker chaperone. The holiday’s origins lay in showing respect to the Buddha. This year, the Lantern Festival takes place on Feb. 26.

Each year, the Chinese calendar is represented by one of 12 animals, making a 12-year cycle based on the Earthly Branches.

However, the Earthly Branches have no direct translations for the animals that appear on it, and they are now used in conjunction with the current-use Heavenly Stems. The animal names accepted to represent the years in English are Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig. The cycle starts with the Rat and ends with the Pig as depicted in the preceding list. The zodiac animals have individual characteristics that include their associated Earthly Branch, yin-yang force, Trine and nature element. These meanings are even extended out to what kind of characteristics a person born during that year will have, notably how people will perceive you and how you portray yourself. For example, dragon years have the lóng Branch, Yang, First Shrine, and Earth element. People born during this year are said to be charismatic, intelligent, confident, powerful, gifted and very lucky. Lunar New Year 2021 is the year of the Ox. The Ox’s characteristics are niú, Yin, Second Trine, and Earth. If you were born between Feb. 7, 1997 and Jan. 27, 1998, then you are an Ox! Oxes are said to be honest, gentle, hard-working, kind, think logically and make great leaders.

Not all central and eastern Asian cultures celebrate the Lunar New Year, though, so, it is important not to assume that your friends from Japan, Korea or other parts of Asia participate in this meaningful celebration, although they might. If you are unsure, the best thing to do is ask before assuming. Everyone has their own beliefs and traditions, even if they don’t have any at all. When you ask, you open up a dialogue to learn more about other peoples and cultures but, more importantly, about your friends. An excellent way to further your understanding is to do your own research and participate in cultural events run by people who are a given ethnicity themselves or by an expert in collaboration with a cultural group. One such event will be taking place on Feb. 13, 2021, at 7 p.m. Central Standard Time, hosted by many clubs and Lawrence International. Join the event by following the QR code below. To learn more, check out this edition’s News Section or contact [internationalhouse@lawrence.edu](mailto:internationalhouse@lawrence.edu) or [diversitycenter@lawrence.edu](mailto:diversitycenter@lawrence.edu) with questions.

Next year, the Lunar New Year will take place on Feb. 1, 2022, and it will be the year of the Tiger. 新年快乐! Happy Lunar New Year!

Join the Lunar  
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forward  
to hearing  
from you!





# Let Me Tell You: An invitation back to TARDIS

Mary Grace Wagner  
Columnist

*Last term, I interviewed Lawrentians about what pieces of entertainment and media got them through the summer of lockdown and isolation. This term, I'm doing the same thing, except it's my turn. Each week I'm giving my comfort food, pop culture and art suggestions for the dreary winter we're facing. What's something you can watch, read or listen to that can take you to a new world? Well, let me tell you.*

I'm a huge "Doctor Who" nerd. I'm talking old black and white serials, the questionable 1996 TV movie, the 2005 reboot that most people are familiar with, conventions — the whole deal. The legacy sci-fi series has existed for over 57 years and continues to reinvent itself, using its central plot device to do so. The main character, a space and time traveling humanoid alien known as "The Doctor" regenerates into a new body when they die. This has totaled in 14 iterations (save a couple technicalities) played by 14 different actors over the show's run.

It's a TV show that is very dear to me and one that I used to enjoy watching with my peers, but I've seen a lot of people who enjoyed the series as teenagers or earlier in their lives drop off when the main actor playing the titular character changes. I particularly noticed this in 2014 when Peter Capaldi took over the role from Matt Smith. The thing about the Doctor assuming a new body portrayed by a different actor is that, aside from core aspects of the Doctors' values, each actor brings a new take on the character, including new personality traits, mannerisms and ways of communicating. Some people don't like this, and that's fair; one grows attached to a certain actor's version of the Doctor, and it can be hard adjusting to a new one.

Around the transition from Smith to Capaldi, many were averse to Capaldi's coarser and curmudgeonly take on the role, something that hadn't been seen since some of the earliest iterations of the character. Those who had enjoyed the more youthful, whimsical versions of the character fell off, which no one can blame them for — people like what they like, but this article is for those people. I invite you back to "Doctor Who" to start with series 11 and the 13th Doctor, played by Jodie Whittaker.

The nice thing about starting with series 11 is that, like series five, it begins the tenure of a new showrunner, in this case Chris Chibnall. Chibnall has written for the program since 2007, and in 2018, came in to start afresh with a new cast and a new set of stories.

As for the Doctor, Whittaker is a revelation. Known for her roles on Broadchurch and in the indie sci-fi film "Attack the Block," she is the first woman to ever take on the role. Grabbing inspiration from precocious young '80s' movie heroes, such as Mikey from "The Goonies" (1985) and Sarah from "Labyrinth" (1986), Whittaker brings a childlike whimsy to the Doctor that is quite reminiscent of both early seasons of Sylvester McCoy's seventh Doctor and Smith's Doctor. Her bright, childlike wonder at the world is beautifully contrasted with the character's genius but never gets in the way of the Doctor's more serious moments. The characterization is light and playful without sac-

rificing the wisdom and burden of her being 4.5 billion years old.

The Doctor is known for always traveling with a human companion or two, and Whittaker's Doctor is no different. The 13th Doctor boasts one of the most diverse TARDIS (the name of their ship) teams ever, both racially and ability wise, and in terms of generational difference. Ryan Sinclair, a young Black man who struggles with dyspraxia and his stepfather, Graham O'Brien, leave Earth with the Doctor to escape the death of Ryan's mother and Graham's partner, Grace, but they soon learn that grief follows you even through time and space. Rounding out the team is Yasmin Khan, a young woman of Pakistani descent who works as a police officer in Sheffield.

The sci-fi of the series is in its usual form — scary (but not too scary) aliens come to earth or are found on different worlds, the intergalactic version of Amazon is sending insidious packages to unsuspecting victims, and the Doctors old friend and eternal nemesis returns in a brilliant performance by the dynamic (and handsome) Sacha Dhawan.

However, what really signals the newness and thoughtfulness of Chibnall's tenure as showrunner are the historical episodes, which put the characters not in front of aliens but, rather, the problems of the real world. The two episodes that exemplify this are "Demons of the Punjab" and "The Witchfinders," both from series 11. The former is set on the soon to be border between India and Pakistan on Aug. 17, 1947, the day before the partition of India by British colonial powers. There, Yaz meets her grandmother, who at the time is a young Muslim woman who wants to marry a Hindu man. Of course, there are sci-fi components to the story, but the examination of great political and religious divide through the lens of science fiction allows viewers to learn about an important part of history that they may not be familiar with. Written by Vinay Patel, "Demons of The Punjab" also signifies a move in Chibnall's writing staff towards a more diverse team featuring the first Black woman and the first South Asian person to write a "Doctor Who" episode. Though these changes are long overdue, they are more than welcome and give the show a new and unique voice.

The Doctor's status as a woman also allows for commentary on identity by historical and sci-fi means. In "The Witchfinders," when Alan Cumming delivers all the camp you need via his portrayal of King James the first, the Doctor is accused of being a witch for no reason but her being an intelligent and inquisitive woman. This is something the Doctor has never had to deal with, as she has existed in a male body for billions of years.

In my opinion, "Doctor Who" has never been better than in these past two years. The original creativity and whimsy of the show and its titular character are not lost but, rather, enhanced by the new interesting characters and the stories that they make possible for the Doctor. Jodie Whittaker puts her all into this role and carries the show in a way that captures the imagination of both new and old fans alike. If you are looking for innovative and interesting sci-fi or a show that demonstrates depth without taking itself too seriously, visit or revisit "Doctor Who." The doors to the TARDIS are open.

# Faculty recital reflects on pandemic

Erin O'Brien  
Staff Writer

On Friday, Feb. 5, Assistant Professor of Music Tim Albright and Associate Professor of Music Mark Urness shared a collection of original compositions and arrangements called "2020 Reflections," a dual effort project focused on the challenges of returning to improvisation during the pandemic. With Albright on the trombone and Urness on the double bass, the mood and timbre of each diverse piece in the performance were pleasantly and engagingly dynamic.

Following the first piece on the program, "Thank You for Being Here," Albright and Urness took some time to explain some of their methods and experiences in creating the project. They shared that the idea came about to fulfill a need for improvised music during this time of separation. Now, because of COVID, so much music is recorded separately and then subsequently threaded together, but, as Albright commented, that is far from the spontaneous experience of improvisation. Improvised music, the duo explained, is logistically much harder to recreate virtually or in a socially-

distanced setting because of sound lags, expressed in their "Latency" arrangement of Bach's "Invention No. 6 in E Major."

However, Albright and Urness certainly succeeded in creatively surmounting these pandemic-posed challenges, holding their first rehearsal on Albright's porch (in much warmer weather!), balancing social-distancing with a close enough space to avoid sound delays as they improvised by ear. Urness stated that an element of this improvisation practice would sometimes include incorporating a list he created of words associated with quarantine and COVID. He and Albright would then improvise using the chosen word as a title without necessarily planning their musical interpretation in advance in order to produce something new and fresh. Some pieces, however, didn't even have a title or word association at first and were improvised on the fly and subsequently assigned a meaning and title in context of the theme.

In addition to these original improvisations, the program also included two improv-driven arrangements of baroque pieces by Bach and Vivaldi, which Albright and Urness felt fit their theme, titling their

arrangements with the same method as original tracks. Still others, as Urness described in regard to his solo composition, "Still," are straightforward, conventional jazz composition.

Following the recital, Albright and Urness hosted a post-recital reception on Zoom. The concert is still available for belated streaming for those interested on Lawrence University's Vimeo, and links can be found on the events calendar Feb. 5 entry. Over 250 viewers have already watched the dynamic and compelling program, with at least 90 attending live and leaving a comment section full of praise for the "extraterrestrial sounds" throughout the works.

Albright and Urness are clearly versatile artists, evidenced by the diversity of energy and sound in this performance as well as the range of genres and approaches each practice and teach. Both have high-profile reviews and musical collaborations under their belts and continue to keep their musical approaches creative and relevant. The program represents yet another example of artists' resilience and innovation in the face of the pandemic, producing new and valuable work that would not have otherwise been motivated.

## Photo Feature: SOUP Presents: Magician David Anthony



SOUP brings magician David Anthony to campus for Winter Carnival activities.  
Photo by Sebastian Evans.

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## HELP THE ENVIRONMENT. RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!



# Fryxell’s junior recital success

Mads Layton  
Staff Writer

Beth Fryxell’s junior year violin recital was held on Saturday, Feb. 6 at 11 a.m. As well as being open to a very limited audience in Harper Hall, the recital was livestreamed. For the music performance major, students are required to give junior and senior recitals where they play pieces from a variety of time periods.

Fryxell needed to play a Baroque piece and a Romantic piece this year. So, the first piece was George Frideric Handel’s Sonata for Violin and Basso Continuo in A Major, HWV 361, op. 1, no. 3. She was accompanied by junior Alex Lewis on the cello, as well as Sarah Wheeler ‘06 on the harpsichord. After the piece, Fryxell explained that she and Lewis used baroque style bows, which are more slender than a regular bow, thus presenting a lighter sound to match the piece. On choosing this piece over others from the period, Fryxell says, “I played it in like seventh grade but really badly and not with any baroque stylistic choices, so my goal was to perform it more accurately to the time period.” She also took Early Music Revivals with Associate Professor of Music Sara Gross Ceballos, where she “revived” this piece. The playing was bright and quick as she moved her fingers deftly along the strings.



Freshmen Jackson Peters (left) and Linnea Morris (right) perform on stage. Photo by Pei Robins.

For the second piece of the program, the Romantic piece, Fryxell chose Three Romances for Violin and Piano, op. 22 by Clara Schumann, accompanied once again by Sarah Wheeler, this time on the piano. As the stage was set, Fryxell noted that Schumann was a legend of her time, only able to resume her piano career once her husband died and she needed to support her seven children. The piece itself was much different than

the first, with longer musical phrases that felt much more emotional. Each movement was distinct, separated by a pause. One captivating thing about this performance was that Fryxell seemed to feel her playing throughout her whole body, which absolutely translated into the music and her performance.

The third and final piece of the program was a shorter one called Levee Dance op. 27, no. 4, by African-American composer, Clarence Cameron White. She was accompanied once more by Wheeler on piano. Originally, Fryxell played this piece in Associate Professor of Violin Samantha George’s violin studio. Each member of the studio recorded a piece by a BIPOC composer, and Fryxell was particularly drawn to this one after hearing it on a solo violin album by Rachel Barton Pine. In her introduction to the piece, Fryxell indicated that Cameron’s intention was to “promote African culture and spirit” through his work. She also pointed out that there was a quote from the spiritual “Go Down Moses” in the middle of the piece. It was a fluid and strong piece to round out the program with stronger bow strokes interspersed with plucking and swifter sections. By the end, she thanked the audience for coming and was handed flowers by her family for the great performance.

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## VOLUNTEERS IN TUTORING AT LAWRENCE (VITAL)

The VITAL Program matches Lawrence volunteers with K-12 students in the Appleton Area School District. These matches meet generally once or twice per week for roughly 30 minutes and will be meeting virtually. Tutors are able to indicate their grade-range preference as well as the subjects they are comfortable tutoring.

# Movies, Movies, Movies

**Levi Homman**  
Columnist

“Malcolm & Marie,” 2021, directed by Sam Levinson — 2.5/5 Stars

After the success of writer and director Sam Levinson’s HBO series “Euphoria,” expectations for “Malcolm & Marie” were high. Written with stars Zendaya and John David Washington in mind and produced in association with Netflix, the new film was set to be a proving ground for Levinson in the world outside of episodic television. Fans of Levinson’s past work, though, will likely be disappointed by “Malcolm & Marie.” While Levinson has a distinct and competent style of filmmaking and both stars shine in the titular roles, the film’s writing stumbles and fails to deliver the powerful emotional beats it seems to aim for.

Shot on beautiful black-and-white 35 mm film, “Malcolm & Marie” is certainly nice to look at. The characters are cleverly lit and framed, and Levinson makes good use of reflections in mirrors and windows to tell the story through more subtle moments. This competent cinematography is enhanced by a well-chosen and mixed soundtrack by Labrinth, who combines the likes of Duke Ellington and John Coltrane with more contemporary artists like Little Simz and OutKast. Both stars show dedication to their roles; Zendaya’s Marie is nuanced and artfully restrained, and Washington’s Malcolm is aggressive, raw and real.

Where the film truly falls short is in its screenplay. Being such a dialogue-heavy feature, the poor writing becomes even more of a significant detriment. As a character, Malcolm is thoroughly unlikable and has significantly more speaking time than Marie. An up-and-coming filmmaker,

Malcolm rambles about film criticism and racial dynamics in the industry, all of which feels forced and out of place, especially knowing it comes from a white filmmaker who has been struggling to get his films financed and has been outwardly combative with film critics in the past. Marie, on the other hand, lacks depth as a character, despite Zendaya’s best efforts. The script attempts to frame her as an equally harsh arguer, but her spur-of-the-moment insults and attacks are no match for Malcolm’s calculated vitriol and colossal ego. Neither character is particularly relatable, and while their arguments feel authentic, audiences will likely find it increasingly difficult to be invested in their circular and monotonous arguments.

There is little to say that hasn’t already been said about “Malcolm & Marie,” likely because the film itself doesn’t have much of a purpose or message. Clocking in at just over 100 minutes, it feels much longer — a painstakingly drawn-out tour through a failing relationship. The titular characters seem to learn nothing from their mistakes, and the film ends with them looking out at the horizon together, seemingly implying a happy conclusion for the two, an ending that the plot didn’t remotely earn.

Though ambitious and competently executed, especially considering the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, Levinson’s “Malcolm & Marie” sadly fails to reach the heights it aspires for. Its two stars valiantly fight to save Levinson’s mediocre writing, but little can be done to make the story remotely impactful or memorable. Maybe Levinson should just stick to making TV shows.

“Malcolm & Marie” can be watched right now on Netflix.

A+E RADAR

UPCOMING:

2/12 1 p.m. SOUP Craft: Make Your Own Stuffed Animal, Somerset

2/12 4 p.m. Mudd Library Fiber Arts and Chat, Zoom

2/13 3:30 p.m. LU Swing Dancing, Somerset

2/13 7 p.m. Lunar New Year, livestream

2/13 7 p.m. Black History Month double-feature, Cinema

2/14 6 p.m. Valentine’s Day Speed Friending, Somerset

2/14 7 p.m. LSO Concerto Competition Winners’ Performance, Lawrence Vimeo

2/15 11:30 a.m. It’s On Us Week of Action, Warch Lobby

2/16 6 p.m. Q&A discussion of the film “Talking Black in America,” Zoom

2/17 7 p.m. LU Reads, Zoom

2/17 7 p.m. Mindfulness, Healing, and Self Compassion Workshop with Megan Parker, Zoom

2/19 7 p.m. SOUP Live Music, Mead Witter



# Voices from the Editorial Board: Confirming our editorial policies

We published this new editorial policy in last week’s edition of the paper, but at the time it was still waiting for approval from CODA that we were as thorough as possible in our inclusion. Since then, CODA confirmed this policy and it is now published here as it will stand going forward.

*The Lawrentian Editorial Policy as of Feb. 2, 2021*

Lawrence University defines hate speech as “forms of expression (whether words or symbolic actions) that attack or use discriminatory language, or create an atmosphere of intimidation, harassment, or abuse, because of an actual or perceived identity group membership.” *The Lawrentian* will not publish anything that falls under this definition of hate speech. This applies to everything published in *The Lawrentian*, including Letters to the Editor, Staff Editorials, and any work written in any of our sections.

All information claiming to be fact, including information contained in an editorial or opinion piece, will be verified for accuracy. This process will involve multiple rounds of flagging any potential inaccuracies as well as a team designated to addressing any flagged information. From there, editors will work with their writers to discuss the result and how to move forward with the piece if necessary.

*The Lawrentian* reserves the right to refuse to publish material that violates our standards. When we find that we are unable to decide whether a piece violates these standards, we will reach out to members of CODA and at least one of our staff-advisors to aid us in our decision-making.

If there appears to be a conflict of interest in either of these resources, we will seek for additional outside perspectives so as to not allow this to deter our commitment to truth and inclusivity.

Letters to the Editor can be sent in to Opinions & Editorials Editor, Lauren Kelly, at lawrentian@lawrence.edu. We review all letters and consider them for publication. *The Lawrentian* staff reserves the right to edit for clarity, decency, accuracy and grammar. All letters should be submitted on the Monday before publication, and should not be more than 500 words.



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# First of Many

## First-Generation Student Mentorship Program

Through this program, first-generation students at LU will be matched with potential first-generation students at Kaukauna High School. Matches will meet virtually once each week for approximately 30-60 minutes to discuss the topic of the given week. Topics will include acknowledging barriers that exist for first-generation students, college applications, and the FAFSA (and so much more).

The program will tentatively run from March 29th - May 24th.

Applications are due March 1st.



# Hey, administration: Do better for your CAs

Ila Williams  
Guest Writer

“You knew what you were signing up for” could have been a valid excuse to shut up a Community Advisor complaining about their job, but only if we weren’t in the middle of a global pandemic. Instead, what we, as CAs, signed up for is not what we were expecting or were promised. In short, I, as well as many other CAs, am fed up with not only the way residents have been treating us this year but with the administration as well. To start, Community Advisors are not the police officers of campus. That is not our job. As student employees who are meant to build community within residence halls, we are finding it very difficult to do so if community members are being unsafe and disrespectful to us. Like we were trained, we report those who are violating COVID policies — but, we are the majority doing the reporting. For something that is supposed to be dispersed to students across campus, most expect CAs to do all the reporting. And we knew that was going to be one of our responsibilities this year. But for us to be the major group reporting? That resulted in being hated and harassed by the very people we protect and live

with. Community Advisors are not upset at the fact that part of our job is to report people violating COVID policies. In fact, we take our jobs seriously and we know how crucial reporting is for the campus. Or, at least, how crucial we thought reporting students was. But the administration has failed us. For violations that we do report, especially for serious cases I have reported, major action has not been taken to help or protect us. Although weekly Judicial Board hearings are taking place, this solution was not utilized with the serious cases I have dealt with. I know Lawrence is a place that prides itself on education when resolving incidents, but during a global pandemic, I really do not believe the educational path is rigorous enough concerning COVID violations. As a Community Advisor, I need to see action beyond the administration “resolving” policy violations just by having conversations. As student employees who risk their own physical, mental and emotional health to protect residence halls, Community Advisors deserve to see real solutions for multiple violations, especially those involving guest policy concerns and mask wearing. Accidentally forgetting your

mask in the hallway is very different from violating the guest policy multiple times, but from my personal experience, as well as many other CAs, the administration deals with both concerns in the same way. Please note that these cases are so extreme that they go beyond the power Residence Hall Directors hold. Even some RHDs are struggling with the repercussions of reporting. Administration appears to not have a reliable operation plan for appropriately solving concerns based on their level of severity. On top of their unsuccessful way of addressing violations, they have not properly supported Community Advisors who are facing the aftermath of reporting head-on. As a CA who has dealt with multiple forms of harassment, including name-calling and bullying from their own residents, I have experienced no weight lifted off my shoulders due to the administration’s help. I have not only consistently reported people but have been in communication with the appropriate administration. For all of the emotional and mental trauma I have experienced within this position, I have not once been satisfied with how my cases of harassment have been dealt with. I am not the only one who feels this way. In a building in which I am

supposed to be creating a welcoming community, I am the one being rejected and ousted. In addition, residents have brought up concerns with me about these same incidents. Every time I tell my residents the importance of reporting the concerns that they see, I feel sorry for them because I feel that there simply will not be a lasting effect from the reports they file. I receive harassment by reporting, but I report anyways because I believe that this will truly change the unsafe behaviors I have dealt with. But, let me be clear: I feel like reporting is not working. As someone who has filled out a surprising amount of reports, consequences have not been given fairly, and I have not been treated respectfully. Administration needs to change their system of reporting or support their Community Advisors when facing harassment and discomfort due to filing reports on residents. They cannot do nothing for both sides of the spectrum. I have repeatedly stated how uncomfortable and unsafe I feel in my own residence hall. I have reached out to the people in the administration who I thought could offer insight and solutions to bullying. Instead, the administration seems to have forgotten that Community Advisors are

students first. I have struggled with my mental health and emotional well-being because of the backlash I have faced after filling out COVID reports. I experience all of this while being paid the same as any other year. So, here is a message to the administration. We are in the middle of a global pandemic. You are not allowed to expect Community Advisors to be the backbone of your COVID violation reporting system without offering them better pay, protection against harassment and a system that offers real solutions. The same should be done for RHDs. We are overworked, underpaid, and I am simply tired of the disrespect I, and many others, not only face consistently from residents but you as well. Lastly, I’d like to remind the administration that they rely on Community Advisors. You need us. Change the reporting system. Give us the support we need. If we do not see actual results, we will not be keeping our positions. We simply cannot face any more damage to our well-being. We are not only students but human beings. You clearly need a reminder of this as well.

Do better. The stability of your residence halls relies on it.



# Love in Action: Neuroqueer love

**drake bell hooks**  
*Columnist*

*Love in Action is a column aimed at understanding the world in its complexity framed through a lens of radical love and its practical implications. Too often, we focus on the hate that pervades the world, but what about Love? And where does its potential lie?*

In a world which rejects already so many marginalized identities, queerness is one aspect which seems to drive families apart no matter the strength of those bonds or the unity of their common humanity. When talking about intersectional queerness, we often leave neuroqueerness behind as an invisible variable. I would argue that being neurodiver-

gent in some capacity takes queerness a step further by complicating the boundaries of what it is to be a social being and who deserves to be included in our definitions of humanity. To some, I may act like a robot from time to time but a robot capable of love and feeling, nonetheless. The silent prejudice and avoidance people have for neuroqueer folks cloaks another beautiful and joyful aspect of humanity's diversity. What does it look like when we embrace that neuroqueerness instead?

It is a noted phenomenon that queer folks will gravitate towards each other and form friend groups. Whether it starts out as entirely queer or a mishmash, it is just as commonplace for some people in the group to gradually explore their identity and discover their queerness, leading to a net-positive of queerness. I sus-

pect this is because there are certain tendencies of an open mind and an embrace of the fluidity of queerness that one may embody before fully being conscious of it themselves. The case is similar with neuroqueer folks. I say that based on my own experiences of realizing that I actually have a good number of friends of divergent neurotypes, some of whom I met that way and others who have realized that aspect of themselves over time. Dare I say it, some have even discovered their neuroqueerness because of my advocacy and open-minded approach to my identity. The point being that my neuroqueer friendships extend beyond mere social connection but to a deeper understanding of one another. A deeper understanding of the expectations placed upon us by the neurotypical world; of that feeling of fitting within an impossible mold that

does not accommodate our gelatinous glory; of squirming under the pressure of a million sensory stimuli while your neurochemical stimulators function inadequately; of having dozens of incorporeal voices in your head micromanaging your behavior and reminding you of past slip-ups. That emotional bond is very specific to the neuroqueer experience and brings those of my community ever closer in our shared experiences.

With an instinctual understanding of neuroqueerness, I want to describe some of the ways that those friendships can bring joy in an otherwise neuronormative world. Whereas dancing and voice acting, ways in which I engage in echolalia, might be construed as inappropriate in certain contexts, it is certainly a practice to be loved in neuroqueer settings, and that goes for other forms

of echolalia as well. Moreover, when I am with my neuroqueer friends, I feel much more self-assured that they do not judge me for who I am and that they will not avoid me for my neuroqueerness. Growing up neuroqueer often includes peer bullying, whether overtly or covertly, and, so, having that space of peace and love and acceptance is a true pleasure. Knowing that our 'brains go brrrrrr,' so to speak, is like a warm blanket that tethers us together. Though that doesn't totally eschew the neuronormative problems I may encounter in any given day, having my neuroqueer community brings a sense of home and family where it otherwise may not exist.

# The wonders of word games

**Christina Haybrook**  
*Staff Writer*

Like most college students who need to hear a xylophone ringtone go off approximately 23 times before waking up for an 8 a.m. class, my phone's "Clock" app is swamped with alarms. Amongst this graveyard of forgotten alarms from early classes, indulgent naps and scatterbrained reminders is one alarm that I have yet to turn off in five years.

10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time is a special time for "verbivores" around the globe. English majors, musicians, doctors, store clerks, old people and young people alike come together at this time of day for the digital release of the next "The New York Times" crossword puzzle.

To a lot of people, crossword puzzles are nothing more than poorly-made filler activities to pass time. They keep kids quiet and occupied at restaurants. They take people's minds off the fact that they are stuck in a metal tube, thousands of feet off the ground, for the next several hours. They are handed out in middle school Spanish classes to

unwilling students for new vocabulary practice. The majority of people are unaware of the brilliant craft that crossword puzzles have the potential to be.

Even "The New York Times," the king of crossword puzzles itself, thought crossword puzzles to be a waste of time, only throwing one into its paper as a lighthearted distraction in 1942 following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Since then, crossword puzzles have boomed in popularity, picking up many unique conventions along the way that make the 15x15 word riddle into the genius work of art that it is today.

One of the oldest stylistic rules in the book is that all crosswords in "The New York Times" must have rotational symmetry, meaning that a puzzle can be rotated 180 degrees and still be symmetrical in shape. This rule alone creates an incredible challenge for puzzle makers, who not only have to build a map of connecting words but also have to make sure this puzzle has the exact answers that will give it perfect symmetry. Beyond this central rule are the puns, themes and play-on-words

that appear throughout the entirety of the clues. In a sense, building a crossword puzzle is a puzzle in and of itself.

Not only are most of us oblivious to the wonders of "The New York Times" crossword puzzles, but the world of those who enjoy the puzzles religiously is hidden from most of society. "Wordplay," a 2006 documentary, steps into this realm and captures a glimpse of the chaotic lives of crossword fanatics for the rest of us to see. The film follows its subjects all the way up to the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, a yearly event that individuals from all walks of life gather to participate in. Seeing people not much older than myself perfecting the art of solving a crossword puzzle is what sparked my interest in them.

It was first "The New York Times" miniature crosswords that took my notice. A free 5x5 crossword puzzle conveniently available on my phone, I was instantly hooked on this sweet and short challenge that was presented to me at 10 p.m., as if it were a reward for completing the day. I quickly found myself obsessing over my time, attempting to shrink it

each day. It was not long after I got it under one minute that I was itching to half that. After I could finish one in 30 seconds, I fought to bring my time down to the 20s. At last, once I reached this mark, I did what once seemed impossible to me: I brought my time down below 20 seconds. No matter how good or bad of a day I was having, no matter how triumphant or defeated I felt at 9:59 p.m., I had this small achievement to be proud of at the end of every day.

Although this initially was just a fun competition that I had created with myself, I slowly began to notice differences in the ways I read and wrote. I found myself typing in "synonyms for ..." into Google far less often than I had before when writing papers. Reading homework flew by much quicker. I saw that the random bits and pieces of fact that I collected from each clue were slowly coming together and that I suddenly had well-rounded knowledge of subjects I had never studied before. Though a simple game that took up less than a minute of my time, I began to see the positive impacts it had on me.

My crossword puzzle vessel expanded from the minis of "The

New York Times" to include the more lighthearted but larger 15x15 puzzles of "Crosswords with Friends." Like the minis, I found myself learning about all sorts of new things from movies I had never seen to sports I had never played. Once I got these puzzles down to under three minutes, which took an entire year of practice, I decided to head to the grand, 15x15 "The New York Times" puzzles. While these are a much more challenging work in progress, I find myself continuing to grow in logic, knowledge and literary skills.

Crossword puzzles, though a small part of my day, have given me something positive to look forward to for years now. They have been there as a feel-good activity through days of failed tests, quarantine blues and difficult work shifts. Even more so, they have cultivated my love for language and knowledge which has spread to other areas of my life since.

If you have a spare moment this Reading Period, give the documentary a watch and try a puzzle or two. You might just find yourself with a 10 p.m. EST alarm on your phone.

# Get Outside: High Cliff

**Lauren Kelly**  
*Op-Ed Editor*

Since this week has not given us the most desirable weather, and I'd much rather be inside and thinking about the summer, I thought I'd write about High Cliff State Park in Sherwood, WI. Many first-year students likely were introduced to the state park during their respective Welcome Weeks. As a local, I have been going to High Cliff since I was a little kid.

High Cliff State Park, as the DNR writes, "gets its name from the limestone cliff of the Niagara Escarpment, which parallels the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago." This is the largest lake in Wisconsin — it goes all the way down to Fond du Lac and is big enough to be seen on a map of the U.S. Many people come to High Cliff year-round to walk on its many trails, go boating or kayaking, camp in the campground, swim (or rather, avoid zebra mussels) in the lake, have a pic-

nic, climb the tower, cross-country ski or snowshoe or even just lay in a hammock. As a state park, it does require an annual pass or an entrance fee to enter.

My earliest memories of High Cliff are standing as close to the edge of the cliff in my dad's arms as I felt comfortable, running down the old road with my brother, picking up walnuts and smashing them with a hammer in our driveway so I could eat them, walking with my family and checking to see how much ice there was on Lake Winnebago. My parents have always said how lucky we were that we had a state park less than 10 minutes away from us — and I agree. Looking back, I think these experiences were all enjoyable, memorable and impactful for me as a young girl.

As I grew up, I still went on walks with my family, but our favorite trail shifted to the longer Red Bird Trail, which is named after Red Bird, a former chief of the Ho-Chunk Nation. It also became popular with

my middle and high school friends to watch sunsets on the lake or up on the aforementioned cliff. I even just camped at High Cliff for the first time this past summer.

Having had so much positive exposure to nature at a young age in a family that actively spent time outdoors, it only makes sense that I am still an active lover of nature. However, having an appreciation for nature does not require excessive outdoor experience or exposure, nor a desire to always be outside. It often doesn't even require spending money! No matter how or where you were raised, anyone can grow to appreciate or love nature because it is simply what is in your surroundings.

Parting briefly from High Cliff, I want to revisit the idea of paying attention during walks on Main Hall Green or on the new bridge. I find that it's really difficult to be intentional with your outdoor time in the winter, especially now with Zoom classes; I find myself only beelining to

Warch or the Con and wanting to cry because of how cold it is. I am only focused on how my body is reacting to the cold or, if the weather is milder, what I will do when I get to the building. Often times, I have headphones in my ears, with "I Gotta Feeling" by the Black Eyed Peas or a podcast playing. These are all distractions, and they effectively tune out the world — including the nature — around me. Instead, I urge us all to bundle up and go for walks with no particular destination in mind. Listen to the snow fall, or hear barely any sounds at all. Let yourself take a break from the homework and the deadlines. I'm sure you'll feel better and whole and mindful.

After all, many go to High Cliff State Park regularly just for the purpose of recreation. Sure, everyone has their own reasons behind recreation — getting their steps in, enjoying the nice day, taking a break from the stress of life, you name it — but it's safe to say that everyone leaves with a

satisfied feeling that only comes with fresh air and serene solitude.

When I was little, my dad would always have us be very quiet and look for deer. At High Cliff we'd creep around in the woods, paying attention to the characteristic tracks of deer or a sound in the trees. It taught me that a walk isn't about distractions like music or chatter — it's about listening to the sounds of nature and paying attention to the animals, rocky ground, changing leaves and blue skies around us.

To this day, I still think about the wonders of nature I have discovered. These memories make me smile, and, like I've said, make me want to run away from my socialized responsibilities and stay in this blissful state forever. I hope that even if you have not had the same nature-filled childhood that I have had, you know that anyone can think about and actively enjoy nature. Please, have fun and be intentional when you go outside.

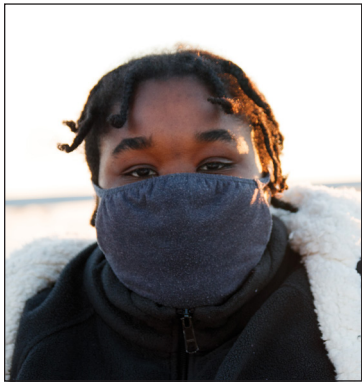
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Photo Poll

Sebastian Evans  
Photo Editor

Saliva test or nasal swab?



“Nasal swab.”  
— Sierra Johnson



“Saliva.”  
— Sho Bunch



“Saliva.”  
— Travis Loepfe



“Saliva.”  
— Brett Schneider



“Nasal swab because I felt like I was developing a pretty good relationship with the good-looking testing guy.”  
— Tommy Dubnicka



“Nasal swab.”  
— Caitlin Chambers



“Saliva.”  
— Greta Wilkening



“I was okay with saliva until one day I had dry mouth; now I prefer nasal swab.”  
— Momin Panhwar



“Saliva.”  
— Pei Robins



Lawrence University is competing in the  
2021 Campus Race to Zero Waste!

From January 31–March 12, every time you bring a reusable clamshell or reusable bag for dining at Andrews Commons, you will get a slip to enter yourself into a drawing for \$20 in dining credit! Winners will be selected WEEKLY until the end of winter term.

Reduce your waste!  
Reuse items when possible!  
Recycle properly, rinse it and use the right bin!



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POLICY:

Editorial policy is determined by the editors. Any opinions that appear unsigned are those of the majority of *The Lawrentian's* Editorial Board.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. The editors reserve the right to edit for style and space. Letters must be emailed to: lawrentian@lawrence.edu. Submissions by email should be text attachments.

—All submissions to editorial pages must be turned in to *The Lawrentian* no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday before publication.

—All submissions to the editorial pages must be accompanied by a phone number at which the author can be contacted. Articles submitted without a contact number will not be published.

—*The Lawrentian* reserves the right to print any submissions received after the above deadline

—Letters to the editor will be edited for clarity, decency, accuracy and grammar.

—Letters to the editor should not be more than 500 words.



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A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to an opinion piece written by Tim Moyer, “A Critique of the Hate-Speech Policy,” published by *The Lawrentian* on Jan.31, 2021. Many current students have expressed concern about the opinions voiced in the piece, and while I do not believe it is my place to comment on these opinions, there is a factual inaccuracy in the article that needs to be addressed.

In “A Critique of the Hate-Speech Policy,” one of Mr. Moyer’s primary grievances is that a student organization which he led, Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), was denied recognition by LUCC. He states, “The campus YAF chapter was denied recognition on the basis that its opposition to communism in the national charter violated the non-discrimination policy of Lawrence University.” This is simply incorrect -- YAF was denied recognition, but it was certainly not due to “opposition to communism.” I was present at the general council meeting in 2018 when it was decided that Young Americans for Freedom would not be granted recognition by LUCC for a trial period. In fact, I helped write a letter that was read as a community concern during that meeting, which ultimately led to the aforementioned decision by LUCC. My perspective is not an unbiased one, but I can share with current Lawrentians the same information that I shared with LUCC at the time:

*In 2007, the YAF chapter at Michigan State University was declared a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center after hosting a series of anti-immigrant and anti-LGBTQ events, as well as inviting open white nationalist Preston Wiginton to campus. In 2017, according to a petition by UW-Madison’s Student Coalition for Progress, their student body’s YAF chapter intentionally outed and misgendered a transgender student, threatened the safety of members of student government and harassed and violated the privacy of a student of color, among other grievances. The Lawrence Student Handbook states that the LUCC Steering Committee shall deny an organization’s application “if the committee believes that a group’s action or behavior is likely to lead to harassment or discrimination on the basis of identity” (page 111).*

I believe Mr. Moyer’s use of “opposition to communism” to summarize the concern that was presented to LUCC regarding YAF is disingenuous, if not purposefully misleading. The fact is that a governing body cannot condone or include organizations which have missions that are contrary to their own constitution. The YAF mission statement goes further than simply “opposing” communism; it includes a passage about “the forces of international communism,” asserting that “the United States should stress victory over, rather than coexistence with, this menace.” This language is incompatible with the preamble of the LUCC constitution, which states, “LUCC leads campus in our collective mission to foster a respectful environment that actively stands for the equitable and inclusive treatment of all individuals and groups” (page 98 of the Student Handbook).

Mr. Moyer’s article also inaccurately asserts that the decision by LUCC not to recognize his YAF chapter was based on the non-discrimination policy of Lawrence University. Both of the policies quoted above come from the LUCC Constitution, and the governance decision was unrelated to non-discrimination or hate-speech policies on a university level. Following this decision, YAF members could continue to meet and speak out as they wished, but it was decided that LUCC funding and recognition could not be granted to an organization with a mission that is contrary to the guidelines of the LUCC Constitution.

One of the challenges of running a student government, a newspaper or any student organization at a university such as Lawrence is the rate of turnover, both of leadership and group membership. Student groups often lack the benefit of institutional memory, which can make it more difficult to make progress or avoid repeating past mistakes. I hope that the context shared in this letter can serve as a reminder to think critically about the way we present history even with regard to recent events in our own small community.

Rebecca Bernheimer ‘19